

# California State Journal of Medicine

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## FIFTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

The convening of the State Medical Society at Hotel Coronado on May 10, 11 and 12, will mark the completion of a half century of work and progress. A notable record has been written, and one of which the makers need not be ashamed. Many of the men prominent in the earlier days of the society are still actively interested in its affairs, and their presence is both an inspiration and an incentive. The society is honored by having them still on its active list, and is to be congratulated on their service. The program in its final form appeared last month in the Journal, and is inducement enough for every member possible to be in attendance. Matters of great moment to the society and to the medical profession are coming up for consideration. Be sure that all of your delegate positions are filled, and instruct your delegates as to what you want before they leave home. The social program will be unusually attractive this year. Altogether, if you have not yet decided to go, make the decision now. It will repay you manyfold.

### A STRONG STATE SOCIETY

Do you think it worth while to have a State Medical Society? Honestly, do you? Have you given any personal thought on your own part to the question of what makes a State Society strong, and why you think this State Society should be developed and strengthened? If the State Society is worth something to you, does it meet your ideal now of what it ought to be? Consider for a moment what will best serve to build up your State Society.

First, and above all, is the character of executive secretary it possesses. In your new secretary you have combined in one full-time man the active direction and oversight of all your concerted activities. He is peculiarly fitted to carry this responsibility, and the society is absolutely certain to feel the urge toward strong organiza-

tion and effective scientific and public work as an immediate result. To build the State Society he will build the County Societies.

Then with regard to the Council. A councilor representing a district certainly should be expected to visit his district in all its subdivisions periodically and be in close touch with its needs, its weaknesses and its possibilities of development. It may not be essential for him to submit a written report to the Council of the "state of the union" in his own district, but at least his district should see that it is represented by a man who really represents and knows it. The duties of the councilor certainly are not comprehended alone in attendance on half a dozen council meetings in the calendar year.

Then the president and his official family. Should they, too, not have an active directing function in the affairs of the society? And should their term of office not be measured in its effectiveness by the growth in numbers, in finances, and in power of the State Society?

The legal department is one of which the society may well be proud. It is active, aggressive, forceful, successful. It exemplifies preventive medicine as well as curative medicine. Seldom does it need legal surgery to extricate members from uncomfortable situations.

In each county society there is room for improvement as we one and all come to a realization of the important service in our professional and civic life which is rendered by our membership in the County Society. Surely, local medical societies of all sorts would do well to affiliate as branches of the County Society. We do not need such a multiplicity of organizations. We do need every respectable doctor to be a County Society member, and it were well if all his professional activities could find expression in the branches and subdivisions of the County Society. The County Society ought to be in a position to touch civic life at every point and to keep itself in the forefront of civic progress.